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Another set of measures, made at 7<sup>h</sup> 48<sup>m</sup>, gave the same co-ordinates. After 7<sup>h</sup> 50<sup>m</sup>, the matter became too faint for further measures. The peculiarly vivid whiteness of the meteoric cloud was similar to that of the great meteor of July, 1894.

J. M. SCHAEBERLE.

Lick Observatory, May 6, 1897.

#### STABILITY OF THE GREAT EQUATORIAL, 1888-1897.

Observations for the position of the great telescope have been made by Messrs. SCHAEBERLE, KEELER, CAMPBELL, TUCKER, and COLTON, as below:—

1888, July 27, azimuth +36"; level 8" too low,  
 1889, May 18, " . . . ; " 36 "  
           Sept. 16, " +83 ; " 58 "  
 1890, Aug. 23, " (+54); " 114 "  
 Telescope adjusted.

1891, June 30, azimuth . . . ; level 35" too low.  
 Holding-down bolts tightened.

1892, Aug. 5, azimuth +51"; level 25" too high,  
 1893, Sept. 23, " +48 ; " 57 too low,  
 1896, Dec. 5, " . . . ; " 74 "  
 1897, Apr. 24, " +60 ; " .. "

E. S. H.

#### MEASURES OF *PROCYON*,\* BY WILLIAM J. HUSSEY.

The following measures of SCHAEBERLE's companion to *Procyon* have been made with the 36-inch telescope, using a power of 520 . . . :—

1897.072	$p = 319^{\circ}.23$	$s = 4''.58$
.203	320 .06	4 .77
.206	320 .01	4 .59
1897.16	319 <sup>o</sup> .8	4''.65

#### REFLECTOR AND PORTRAIT LENS IN CELESTIAL PHOTOGRAPHY.

Those who are interested in the technical points suggested by the above title cannot do better than to refer to a nearly exhaustive discussion of them by Professor MAX WOLF in *Nature* for

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\* From the *Astronomical Journal*, No. 403.

April 22, 1897, pp. 582-586, and to the illustrations given there. I venture, in this connection, to mention remarks printed in these *Publications*, Vol. III (1891), p. 249, Vol. VI (1894), p. 24, which relate to the problems discussed by Professor WOLF in the paper cited.

E. S. H.

#### DEDICATION OF THE FLOWER OBSERVATORY, UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

On the afternoon of May 12th took place the exercises which marked the practical completion of the above-named observatory, though observations have been going on regularly there since last October.

The ceremony of the dedication was not elaborate, but all present appear to have found it very enjoyable.

A platform had been erected in front of the equatorial building for the accommodation of the speakers. In front were seated about four hundred invited guests.

Provost C. C. HARRISON, of the University, in a short introductory address, presented the speaker of the day, Professor SIMON NEWCOMB. Provost HARRISON gave a brief outline of the bequest of the founder, REESE WALL FLOWER. This consists of one hundred acres of valuable land adjoining the city of Philadelphia, and upon which the observatory now stands. It is not known how Mr. FLOWER came to make this bequest, as he had never showed any special interest in astronomy.

Professor NEWCOMB gave a very interesting paper upon "The Problems of Astronomy," which was followed by short addresses of an informal nature by Dr. W. R. WARNER, Mr. BRASHEAR, Miss PROCTOR, Dr. BARKER, and C. L. DOOLITTLE.

The exercises were followed by a very enjoyable reception at the residence of the Director.

#### RECORD OF EXPERIMENTS WITH THE MOVING FLOOR OF THE 75-FOOT DOME OF THE LICK OBSERVATORY.

The following summary of experiments with the moving floor of the 75-foot dome may appropriately be recorded here. The original data are scattered in various places, and if brought together, they will be useful in subsequent comparisons.

The idea of a moving floor was first suggested to the Lick Trustees by Sir HOWARD GRUBB, F. R. S. The floor was to rise